

REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 11-16, 18, 20, 39 and 40 are pending in the present application, with Claim 11 being the sole independent claim. Claim 11 is amended herein to clarify that the maximum specular glossiness within the stated range is present when measuring continuously with an angle of from 20° to 75°. Claims 12 and 15 are amended to recite a measurement angle range of 20° to 60°. New Claims 39 and 40 are added to provide a fuller scope of claim coverage commensurate with the disclosure. Support for the amendments and new claims may be found throughout the originally-filed specification and drawings, especially at page 25, lines 15-18, page 33, lines 6-11, and Figs. 5-8, and at page 12, line 21 to page 13, line 11. The specification is amended herein to improve its form. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added by the amendments herein.

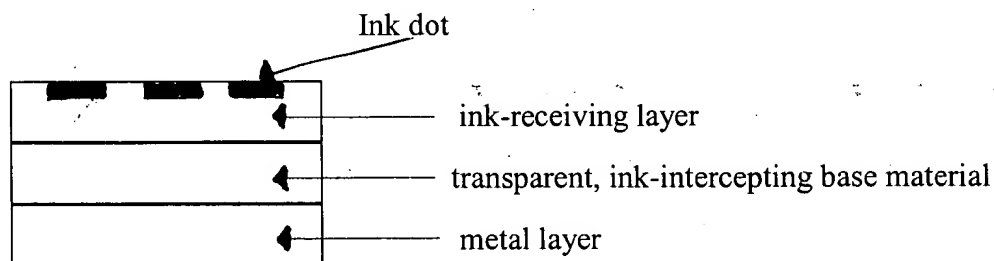
Claims 11-16, 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Chatwin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,492,370). Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection.

Before addressing the merits of the rejection, Applicants believe it will be useful to review some features and advantages of the claimed invention. As recited in independent Claim 11, the present invention relates to a printed matter printed with ink dots on a recording medium. The recording medium comprises a transparent and ink-intercepting base material that has a first face and a second face, a metal layer formed on the first face of the base material, and an ink-receiving layer provided on the second face of the base material. The surface of the ink-

receiving layer constitutes an outer surface of the printed matter. The first face of the transparent base material on the metal layer side is embossed. At least one of solid printed areas of yellow, magenta, and cyan colors has maximum specular glossiness within a measurement angle range of from 20° to 60°, when measuring continuously with an angle of from 20° to 75°. By “solid printed areas”, Applicants mean that the color is printed all over the whole area.

In conventional recording mediums, specular glossiness gradually increases when the printing medium is continuously observed from 20° to 75°. When such a printing medium is observed obliquely, the specular glossiness at 75° is the maximum. (See page 4 of the present specification.) In contrast, in the present invention, since the printed matter has a maximum value within a range of from 20° to 60°, it has excellent gloss for improved decorativeness of the image. Such an image is achieved by the layer construction shown in FIG. A below, which is a schematic view of a printed matter according to the present invention. Moreover, in the present invention, since a transparent, ink intercepting base material is sandwiched between a metal layer and an ink-receiving layer, an image with excellent metallic luster can be maintained for a long time without the ink corroding the metal layer.

Figure A (Present Invention)



In Applicants' view, the cited reference does not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

The Examiner acknowledges that Chatwin et al. does not describe the "specular glossiness" recited in Claims 11-16 of the present invention. The Examiner takes the position that the article disclosed in this reference would inherently be able to achieve the specular glossiness values recited in the claims of the present invention. Applicants disagree, however, as Chatwin et al. is very different in structure from the present invention.

The Examiner refers to col. 6, lines 28-37 of Chatwin et al. This passage states that one side of substrate (e.g., a thermoplastic resin film) is embossed, the surface thereof is metallized, and then the metallized surface and the opposite surface thereof are coated. The coating may be indicia-receptive and of a background-opacifying nature. Thus, the coating disclosed in this reference is opaque and acts as a mask. (See also col. 3, line 41.) Therefore, even when the metallized surface is coated, the indicia on the coating do not produce specular glossiness as in the present invention.

In Chatwin et al., as shown in FIG. 2 (corresponding to the cross-sectional view in FIG. 3), the portions other than the holographic area 9 and a narrow strip are covered with a coating, and indicia are provided on the coating. (Col. 11, lines 7-21.)

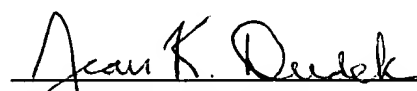
In contrast, the glossy image of the present invention is obtained because the image produced in a transparent ink receiving layer is brightened with a rainbow effect by interference of the reflected light from the metal layer formed on the other side of the embossed transparent substrate. In the reference, the coating corresponding to the ink-receiving layer of the present invention is opaque. Therefore, Applicants conclude that Chatwin et al. cannot provide the image as claimed in the present invention.

Applicants conclude that the cited reference does not teach or suggest all the features of the present invention as recited in Claim 11, and respectfully request withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection. Applicants submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 11. The dependent claims are allowable for the same reasons given regarding Claim 11, as well as for the patentable features recited therein. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

Applicants submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicants
Jean K. Dudek
Registration No. 30,938

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
JKD:ayr

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